

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action¹, claims 1-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,535,596 to Frey et al. ("Frey") in view of U.S. Patent 6,167,119 to Bartholomew et al. ("Bartholomew").

Applicants propose to amend the specification to update references to related applications, and to amend claims 1, 12, 21, 23, and 34. Claims 1-34 would remain pending in the application.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Frey in view of Bartholomew.

A *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established at least because of the differences between the prior art and the subject matter of claims 1-34, as amended. The differences are such that claims 1-34 would not have been obvious.

For example, amended independent claim 1 recites a method comprising, among other things,

receiving first user line management information . . .
specifying a first handling of calls . . . for contacts in a first
address book . . . ;

receiving second user line management information . . .
specifying a second handling of calls . . . for contacts in a
second address book distinct from the first address book

(emphases added). Frey and Bartholomew, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the claimed combination including at least the receiving user line management features of claim 1.

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

Frey discloses “[a] method and apparatus . . . for processing a call from a calling party to a called party. Abstract. In Frey, “[t]he subscriber profile module 113 for the called party 110 is queried by the call behavior module 130 to determine how the called party 110 wishes to have the call treated.” Col. 8, ll. 45-48. Specifically, “the subscriber profile module 113 locates the relevant profile information and provides it to the call behavior module 130.” Col. 8, ll. 48-50.

However, Frey discloses, “[a] subscriber profile . . . is generally any data regarding the telephony service options and preferences of a subscriber. These preferences may include . . . the subscriber's language preference and the subscriber's dialing preference (such as, for example, using a keypad or by speaking). As preferred, subscriber profile contains a comprehensive list of all the telephone service options and preferences subscribed to by a subscriber.” Col. 5, ll. 15-20. Accordingly, Frey discloses generic call treatment according to a subscriber's telephone service options and preferences. Frey does not treat or handle a received call based on “contacts in a first address book” or on “contacts in a second address book distinct from the first address book” (emphases added). Instead, Frey handles a received call in a manner irrespective of the call's origin, because only the subscriber's telephone service options and preferences are taken into consideration.

Bartholomew fails to remedy the deficiencies of Frey. Bartholomew discloses “[a]n intelligent telephone network [providing] personalized communication services based on subscriber prescribed . . . speech signal processing of utterances of both calling and answering parties.” Abstract. In Bartholomew, “[w]hen a serving central office SSP 11 detects a call to a line having the personalized service . . . [t]he SSP . . .

routes the call to the IP 23. The IP 23 prompts the caller to identify a desired called party Based on identification of the called subscriber, the IP 23 signals the SSP switch 11 to load profile data for that subscriber into the register . . . [and] the SSP central office 11 processes the call in accord with the loaded profile information.” Col. 14, ll. 10-22. “For example, the central office 11 may provide a distinctive ringing signal corresponding to the identified subscriber . . . [or the] loaded profile information may specify call forwarding in event of a busy or no-answer condition.” Col. 14, ll. 27-33.

Thus, Bartholomew’s call processing is based on the caller’s vocal identification of a desired called party, and on the service the called party subscribes to (e.g., personal ring tone, call-forwarding, etc.). However, Bartholomew does not process a received call based on “contacts in a first address book” or on “contacts in a second address book distinct from the first address book.” Instead, Bartholomew processes a received call in a manner irrespective of the call’s origin, because only the caller’s identification of the called party and the service the called party subscribes to are taken into consideration.

Amended independent claims 12, 23, and 34, while of different scope, recite features similar to those of claim 1. Accordingly, claims 12, 23, and 34 are allowable over Frey and Bartholomew for at least similar reasons as claim 1. Claims 13-22 and 24-33 are allowable over Frey and Bartholomew at least because of their dependence from claims 12 and 23, respectively.

Accordingly, the differences between the prior art and the claimed combinations are such that the subject matter of claims 1-34, as amended, would not have been

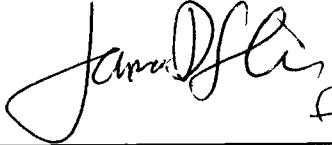
obvious. Thus, no *prima facie* case of obviousness has been established with respect to claims 1-34.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and the withdrawal of the rejection. Pending claims 1-34 are in condition for allowance, and Applicants request a favorable action.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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